

Viewers Duped by Mermaid "Documentary"

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Mermaid body found? Mermaid prop from "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire." Real mermaids don't exist. (examiner.com)

THE US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has felt obliged to issue a statement that "no evidence of aquatic humanoids has ever been found," after a sci-fi programme, dressed up as a documentary caused many of their countrymen to believe that mermaids were real.

The programme, entitled 'Mermaids: The Body Found', was aired on Animal Planet, a branch of the Discovery Channel. Despite clearly stating it was science fiction, the documentary style of the programme and the fact it claimed to "be based on some real events" led to considerable public excitement about the possibility that mermaids and mermen were more than myths.

As part of NOAA's mission is public education, they therefore felt obliged to issue the statement, so mermaids have now joined the ranks of the Bermuda Triangle and Atlantis – two other topics that have been addressed by the organisation in recent years.